



## ***CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA***

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **1) Call to Order/Roll Call**

The following were present:

- Chair Rob Gordon
- Vice Chair Dr. John Salomon
- Libby Manning
- Golnaz Sami
- Dr. Mara Zapata

Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

### **2) Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting**

Minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting were approved as amended.

**Chair Gordon moved to approve the minutes. Board member Manning seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.**

### **3) School Reports:**

Miami Springs Elementary School Principal Sally Hutchings reported the following:

- Interim testing is ongoing and results will be analyzed and compared to the baseline data.
- A Parent Workshop on Accelerated Reader and STAR was held on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Enrollment is down by four students and ten students have moved to the new Glenn Curtiss Charter School; capacity is at 105%.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten will take a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch; Milam's Math Night was rescheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Other activities include: "Say No to Drugs", "Shade Out" Day and the Hispanic Heritage celebration on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Fifth grade will go to the Biscayne Nature Center in November and the gifted students will go to the Railroad Museum.
- The P.T.A. is meeting to finalize plans for the October 27<sup>th</sup> "Trick or Treat" Street Night; the Halloween Parade is scheduled for Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa is donating nine turkeys for needy families.
- STS tutoring is sponsored by Springview and Beyond the Bell and they are targeting 24 students.
- The school submitted a grant proposal for an ELL grant in the amount of \$6,120.00.
- Class size has improved from 49 to 17.

Springview Elementary School Principal Mayte Dovale reported on the following events, activities and programs:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> grade went to the Pumpkin Patch and Kindergarten was cancelled due to the rain.
- The United Way campaign surpassed the goal and students raised \$1,290.70.
- Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated with a parade; the Media Center showcased several books in Spanish and the Spanish teachers have assigned special projects.
- Halloween will be celebrated with the "Character Dress-up" Day on October 31<sup>st</sup> and the Haunted House and "Monster Mash" on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- McDonald's Night will be held on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and a percentage of the proceeds will come back to the school.
- An accelerated reading workshop was held for the parents of Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, and newly enrolled students.
- Students participated in 821 quizzes in one week and 645 passed with 80% or higher.
- Fall interim testing is being conducted in areas of reading, math and science for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The data will indicate of areas that require remediation through classroom instruction.
- Class size indications are "green" except for one Pre-K session.
- Student enrollment is 478, up from 473.

Lead Teacher Jennifer Gomez from the Glenn Curtiss Charter School reported the following on behalf of Principal Vera Hirsh:

- Student enrollment is 110 students for the K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade program.
- Events include the United Way campaign, Spirit Week, Hispanic Heritage activities, a Fall Festival on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and a winter student art auction on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Recruitment is ongoing for the third grade and next year's recruitment has already begun for the 2012-2013 school year. Siblings will have priority.
- Notebook computers were distributed to all 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students for use in classroom activities, homework assignments and word processing.
- The Rosetta Stone program is working very successfully for the students and teachers.

Board member Zapata asked how the kids are learning keyboard skills on the notebook computers.

Ms. Gomez responded that the teachers use smart boards with the Rosetta Stone program and the kids follow through with typing. There are set dates for bringing computers from home for homework use.

To answer Chair Gordon's question, Ms. Gomez clarified that the school currently has eleven 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and the target is eighteen.

Board member Manning asked how the students like Rosetta Stone program.

Ms. Gomez responded that the students love the program. The Kindergarten students practice the program for approximately fifteen-minutes to learn basic skills like the mouse and typing. The second and third grade students use the program for forty minutes and first grade for thirty minutes. They must process the sound of their voices and the program is very beneficial.

Mother Susan Keedy, Head of School for All Angels Academy, explained that they are a K-8 grade independent school with students from all areas and all denominations. She reported on the following programs and activities:

- Students held the Student Government election, including voter registration and campaigning.
- The Student Government is sponsoring the "Spooktacular" Halloween celebration on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> with a student built haunted house, dance and pumpkin carving contest.
- The average class size is seventeen students per class and the actual range is from five to sixteen students.
- A parent workshop was held for parents to see how technology works in the classroom.
- Upcoming events include a patriotic parade and the ground breaking for the Victory Garden on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> World War II and the "Emergence of the Greatest Generation" is the theme for the year.
- A High School Fair will be held on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and invitations were sent to 180 schools in the area, including public, private and magnet schools. The students learn interview skills and what is important for them in high school.
- Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and it is a very big event for all children in Miami Springs.

Principal Javier Perez of Miami Springs Middle School reported:

- Math teacher Maribel Carvajal won \$4,000 in the District “Race to the Top” for her student learning gains in the past three years.
- The school has a new website at [www.msms.dadeschools.net](http://www.msms.dadeschools.net) or it can be found through the District website.
- Interim assessments began this week and will continue next week.
- The Math Club is getting ready for their upcoming competition with the help of Ms. Manning and they meet on Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.
- Tutoring programs continue with Easter Seals, SES and ELL.
- The United Way campaign is ongoing and the students have a big event next week.
- The Title I Parent meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to highlight the Parent Portal and drug prevention.
- Boy’s soccer finished 2-2 and will play Filer Middle for the North Regional Championship; the girls soccer team finished undefeated and will compete in the regional championship; cross country is underway and volleyball just started.
- Class size is improving and he hopes to meet the requirements within the next week.
- Total student enrollment is currently 1,615 students.

To answer Chair Gordon’s question, Mr. Perez explained that the scope of work for painting the school was submitted and the project is currently in the funding phase before going out to bid. He spoke with Board member Salomon about the need for a shade area for the kids during lunch and after school.

Miami Springs Senior High School Principal Thomas Ennis reported on the following activities and programs:

- The school completed a Parent Workshop on the Parent Portal in conjunction with the District Parent Academy.
- Eleventh and twelfth grade FCAT re-testing and computer based testing for interim assessments.
- The marching band placed third in the regional competition and second in the Flanagan Band Invitational. The band is currently rated fifth in the State Class 1A.
- The International Anchor Club completed five service projects.
- The football team’s record is 0-6; the golf team is 7-2 and the volleyball team is 7-5.
- Class size is monitored daily and is now under 30; the class size average is 22.5 students. Total attendance is 1,980.

Board member Manning inquired about the removal of the portables.

Mr. Ennis reported that there has been no progress with the portable removal and currently two are functional and being used for testing purposes. He offered to check to find out what the progress is.

#### **4) PTA/PTSA Reports**

Principal Ennis reported that a meeting was held with Heather Bettner regarding the fundraising event for the eagle statues. The P.T.S.A. is planning to work in conjunction with the fundraising activity. He hopes that the funds are shared equally among all the schools.

#### **5) Business/Reports:**

##### **a. Art in Public Places**

Vice Chair Salomon said that he spoke with Heather Bettner of Prince Media Productions who has been working diligently and meeting with various individuals and schools. He reported that the City Council adopted a Resolution approving public art in Miami Springs and so far the project has one sponsor which is Pinnacle Housing. He asked for help in locating sponsors for the giant eagle statues. He announced that he will be meeting with Principal Ennis and the P.T.S.A. sponsor.

Vice Chair Salomon thanked Principal Perez for the tour of Miami Springs Middle School. He spoke with Mr. Perez about the needs for the Middle School, including shade canopies and smart boards. He referred to the shade canopy at the Prince Field Tot-lot as a good example of a structure that provides great shade for the kids.

Vice Chair Salomon asked the Principals to submit their needs and funding goals for their schools in order to be able to present the list to the prospective sponsors. He said that Heather Bettner was unable to be present tonight and she is planning to attend the next meeting.

Chair Gordon asked how many sponsors are needed to complete the project.

Vice Chair Salomon explained that at least ten sponsors are needed in order for the program to succeed. He urged everyone to use their resources to locate sponsors for the cultural project that will open doors for the community and benefit the schools.

To answer Principal Dovale's question, Vice Chair Salomon clarified that a sponsorship would range from \$4,500 to \$5,000, including all materials for the statues that will be auctioned off after they are displayed for six to eight months. The schools could take on the challenge of sponsoring one eagle per school with the idea of obtaining funds after the auction. The service clubs could also participate in the fundraising process.

### **b. Youth Advisory Council**

Board member Manning reported that Council adopted a Resolution establishing the guidelines for a Youth Advisory Council and copies were distributed to each Board member. She is not sure if the City is going to send a representative to each school to explain the requirements or if it is the responsibility of the Board. Each School will be represented with one member and the High School member will be the Chairperson of the Council. Terms are for one year and the difficulty will be identifying students that will follow through and attend the meetings.

Board member Manning suggested that a Board representative could visit each school to speak about the requirements and provide a copy of the Resolution. The Student Government sponsor or Activities Director might be able to assist. The meetings will be held at City Hall and the dates and times must be determined. She will call the City Manager to ask how they should proceed.

Board member Zapata asked if the Youth Council would have to meet prior to presenting their ideas in order to establish a common subject.

Board member Manning suggested that the Student Government at each school could present an idea to their representative that must be a Miami Springs' resident.

Chair Gordon commented that the Youth Advisory Council would be an advisory board to the City Council.

Board member Manning mentioned that she would also ask the City Manager who will be the responsible adult to oversee the Youth Council during their meetings.

### **c. Advanced Academic Committee**

Chair Gordon spoke with Lubby Navarro who works for Miami-Dade County Public Schools about a bus tour to visit each school in the community. Each school will present their needs, strengths and weaknesses in order to give the District representatives a profile of the school district. The tentative date for the bus tour is the beginning of December and Ms. Navarro will contact each school to determine what dates are available.

Chair Gordon mentioned that plans are being discussed for a College Fair next year in February 2012. This past weekend the Miami Invitational College Fair was held for private schools and he wondered if something like this would be possible for Miami Springs, Hialeah or Doral. The plans are to hold an event around the same time that the District has their College Fair so that college representatives would visit both fairs.

#### **d. STEM Magnet at Miami Springs Senior High School**

Chair Gordon stated that he had not had a chance to meet with Principal Ennis and he sent him a copy of a letter that he sent to the City Council. At the last meeting, it was concluded that in order to show community support the Education Advisory Board would recommend that Council support the creation of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) magnet at Miami Springs Senior High School. He drafted a letter to Miami-Dade County Public Schools for the City Council to approve before sending to the District.

Chair Gordon visited the National Academy Foundation website and found more information and responses from many individuals. He noted that there is a significant cost involved and the lab alone could cost \$100,000 to \$150,000. In addition, there would be a cost involved for training teachers and it is a rigorous process. One recommendation is the possibility of sharing the lab with other schools, not just 60 to 80 kids at the High School.

Principal Ennis pointed out that a magnet school is not designed to serve within one school; it would give everyone in the County an opportunity to apply and the High School would recruit the students from all Miami-Dade County public schools. There are stringent rules in regard to academic performance and if the students do not perform well they are sent back to their home school.

Board member Manning said that the needs of all the kids must be met and the community is saying that they want a program that works. The reason a magnet would work now is because enrollment is down.

Principal Ennis stated that whether it is a District or National Academy Foundation, they look at feeder patterns around the nation and consider the strength in feeder patterns first before funding.

Board member Manning explained that the Education Advisory Board had expressed an interest in the AP courses at Miami Springs Senior High and currently there are twenty-one courses offered. She noted that Spanish Language and Spanish Literature students did well with an 82% and a 61% passing rate respectively. There were only four students in Calculus BC and they all passed. She continued to review the AP Score Summary for 2011 (attached for the record).

Principal Ennis stated that the honors and AP numbers are driven by class size and in the past, class size was not a factor.

Chair Gordon did his best to highlight positive points in his letter. He noted that 50% of the students from Miami Springs Senior High who took Calculus BC and Statistics AP scored 3 or higher, which is needed for college credit.

Principal Ennis commented that of all the kids taking AP courses some are from other areas like Liberty City and South Hialeah. The school services a very cross-cultural section, not just the Miami Springs' feeder pattern; the scores represent a tri-area feeder pattern. Some kids enter the school working at a level one or two and the school is graded on their performance through their senior year. These kids are pushed into the honors classes and those statistics are not shown.

Board member Manning clarified that Mr. Ennis is proud that the High School is servicing kids outside of Miami Springs and everyone understands that a magnet program will also be open to students from other areas as long as they meet certain criteria. This should not be a problem now that enrollment is down.

Board member Manning commented that the Youth Advisory Council only meets quarterly.

Chair Gordon explained that the City Manager had asked the advisory boards not to meet during the next couple of months unless there is something pressing to discuss because the City Hall elevator repairs are scheduled to begin in November. He said that he would continue to meet with key people in regard to the STEM research and other members could work on individual projects off-line.

Vice Chair Salomon emphasized that he would like the Education Advisory Board to meet and he understands that the Rebeca Sosa Theatre is available.

The Clerk of the Board explained that in order to hold meetings at the Rebeca Sosa Theater it requires the involvement of Pelican Playhouse Director Ralph Wakefield and a sound technician who is compensated for his services.

Board member Salomon suggested that the Board could meet at one of the schools and the Clerk of the Board informed him that the meeting must be recorded.

Board member Zapata expressed her desire for the Board to meet in November.

Chair Gordon commented that because the Board does not normally meet in December, he could work independently and present his report in January, but there seems to be other urgent items.

**Chair Gordon moved to recommend that the Board meet in November and ask the City to make the arrangements to hold the meeting at the Rebeca Sosa Theatre if the City Hall is not available. Board member Manning seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on voice vote.**

Board member Manning asked if the new Board members wanted to discuss any other issues related to the Education Advisory Board like the Education Compact.



Board member Zapata explained that the Youth Advisory Council was discussed prior to her joining the Education Advisory Board and she has questions in regard to the purpose of the Council and how items will be presented. She said that there are many issues related to the youth of Miami Springs and there are more issues than people are willing to accept, whether it is related to city government or not. It is important that the students are provided a forum that they can discuss together or else the High School representative will take over and the fifth graders could be intimidated.

Board member Manning stated that the Board did not get into the specifics related to the issues.

Vice Chair Salomon explained that the concept of the Youth Advisory Council was presented by Councilman Dan Espino in his Civics Initiative proposal and the City Council referred his proposal to the Education Advisory Board.

Board member Manning added that it could take the entire year to get the Youth Advisory Council up and running properly. She agreed that it could be problematic if the High School representative is not the right person to listen to the fifth grade voice and she is not sure what adult is going to be supervising.

Vice Chair Salomon expressed his gratitude that the fifth grade is included because some are leaders that are very bright.

Board member Manning reiterated that it is still not clear if the City is going to send someone to visit the schools to present the Youth Advisory Council idea.

Board member Zapata said that in order to get the Council started there must be a representative from the school to help organize and present the ideas for each school for the quarterly meetings.

Board member Sami suggested that the Education Advisory Board could present the schools with guidelines and ideas for organizing topics.

Further discussion ensued regarding the specific requirements for organizing the Youth Advisory Council. It was suggested that once the Youth Council is formed that they could be invited to an Education Advisory Board meeting to see how business is conducted.

Chair Gordon agreed with the Board members that some mechanisms must be put in place in order to proceed with the establishment of the Youth Advisory Council.

Board member Manning will call the City Manager to see if there are more specifics and if not, the Board will set the guidelines for visiting the schools.

Board member Zapata stated that she visits the elementary schools in her position and she could promote the Youth Advisory Council and get ideas for how it will be structured.

Board member Manning suggested that she would meet with the private schools, Middle School and High School and Board member Zapata could meet with the Elementary Schools.

**6) Other**

The Board members viewed the Sunshine Law video.

**7) Adjourn**

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Suzanne Hitaffer  
Clerk of the Board

Approved as written at meeting of: 11-16-2011

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**The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council.**  
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# AP Current Year Score Summary (2011)

Print / Download Options

This report lists the total numbers of each score (1 to 5) for each AP subject.

Data Updated Jul 6, 2011, Report Run Sep 14, 2011

Disciplines : All

Miami Springs Senior High School (101147)

Total AP Students in Your School: 311

School Totals for this View	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	34	49	82	119	180	464
Percentage of Total	7	11	18	26	39	100
Subject Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Art History		3	3	7	6	19
Music Theory			1	1	6	8
Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio			1			1
Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio				1	1	2
Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio		1	2	1		4
English Language and Composition		5	13	19	7	44
English Literature and Composition		1	9	41	43	94
European History	2	2	11	3	23	41
Psychology	2	1	3	4	16	26
United States Government and Politics			1			1
United States History		5	3	10	25	43
World History		2	4	6	9	21
Calculus AB	8	3	1	1	9	22



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▼ Data Updated Jul 6, 2011, Report Run Sep 14, 2011

Disciplines : All

Miami Springs Senior High School (101147)

Subject Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Calculus BC	2	1	1			4
Computer Science A	4	3		1	4	12
Statistics		4	6	8	6	24
Biology	1	2	1	2	7	13
Environmental Science	1	3	3	3	8	18
French Language			3	2	1	6
Spanish Language	11	8	4	4	1	28
Spanish Literature	3	5	12	5	8	33

